

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : അങ്ങനെ ഒരു റെസ്ട്രിക്ഷൻ ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയാമെങ്കിലും പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാരും മറ്റും കിഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും നെല്ലു കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനറിയാമോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : അങ്ങനെ ഒന്നുണ്ടു പരാതികൾ കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു പക്ഷതിയിൽനിന്നും മറ്റൊരു പക്ഷതിയിലേക്കു നെല്ലു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനെ തടയുന്ന പക്ഷം ഒടുവിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും വസ്തു ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും നെല്ലുകിട്ടാതെ വരുമെന്നുള്ള കഥ ഗവണ്മെൻറു മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : ഇല്ല.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Devicolum*) : May I know whether these instructions will be published in the Gazette also?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes.

Purchase of paddy and rice.

2. * MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by them to secure paddy and rice for the use of this State from 1-5-1117 ;

(b) how far they have been successful in such efforts ;

(c) whether they have made any purchases of rice from British India for the State purpose ;

(d) if so, the quantity purchased ;

(e) whether people even with money do not get rice to be purchased now ;

(f) whether they have fixed the price of the paddy and rice of the State and also of the imported paddy and rice ;

(g) whether the native mill rice is sold for Rs. 40 and more per sack of 160 lbs.; and

(h) if so, whether they have done anything to check such inordinate rise of price ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (a) to (d) The attention of the member is invited to answer (b) to question No. 1.

(e) No.

(f) Yes, the price of imported rice and local paddy has been fixed.

(g) and (h) Yes, instances have been brought to the notice of Government and in all such cases Government have taken the necessary steps.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : With regard to part (f) of the question, the answer given is "Yes, the price of imported rice and local paddy has been fixed." There is no specific mention about the price of local rice. May I know the reason for omitting it?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The price of local rice has not been fixed.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : May I know from the Government that by fixing the price of the local paddy without fixing the price of the local rice, people are resorting to all sorts of unscrupulous methods to see that the paddy is converted into rice and then sold at Rs. 7 and 8 per para.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Government are considering that problem and trying to see that the price of local rice is fixed and controlled in relation to the price of local paddy.

Purchase and distribution of Paddy.

3. * **MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Food Grains Purchasing Officer of the Government is directed to pay the price of paddy to its owner in ready cash at the time of the purchase?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No specific direction in the matter has been issued. Necessary funds have been placed to the credit of the Purchasing Officers and payments on account of purchases will be made by the Officers at the time of purchase.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : May I know whether any quantity of paddy has been purchased so far?

• **MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR :** No, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : In view of the fact that harvest in Nanjanad area has already taken place, will the Government be pleased to entrust the necessary funds for the purchase of the paddy?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Funds have already been set apart.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : But the local officers say that they are not in possession of funds.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No. It is not correct.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : May I know the names of those officers?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The Food Grains Purchasing Officer.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : Has he been authorised to disburse that fund to the local officers for purchasing paddy locally?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Certainly. Tahsildars are the persons who are making the purchases and the advances are made to the credit of the Food Grains Purchasing Officer. Nearly Rs. 9 lakhs have been advanced to the Food Grains Purchasing Officer and he has prepared a distribution statement so far as the Tahsildars are concerned.

PRESIDENT : Honourable member may be assured that this Government are willing to pledge all their resources for the purchase of rice and tapioca with a view to meet the present situation and if there is any misconception or misunderstanding on the part of the people, the officers may be assured that the funds at their disposal for the purchase of those food stuffs will be augmented by Government whenever necessary. Of course, it should be realised that in an extensive area there may be some delay. But the officers will be put in possession of ample funds.